F760002-0387

Department of State

175

TELEGRAM

UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL 956

PAGE 01 BENGHA 00470 080836Z

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 3/1/76
PER M Berry OFFICE NEA
EADRC FOI CASE NO. 5A-88

17
ACTION AF-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-06 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 E-11
COM-08 INT-06 TRSE-00 FTC-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /133 W
011753

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY c/ DATE 6/18/81
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

P 081020Z DEC 71
FM AMEMBASSY BENGHAZI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0710
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL BENGHAZI 0470

SUBJECT: NATIONALIZATION OF BP

FROM MACK

1. NATIONALIZATION WAS COMPLETE SURPRISE FOR BENGHAZI REPS OF BP AND NELSON BUNKER HUNT. REED OF HUNT AND CURTIS OF B.P. WERE IN LONDON AT TIME OF ANNOUNCEMENT AND PRESUMABLY STILL ARE.

2. SINCE EVENING OF DECEMBER 7, LIBYAN OFFICIALS HAVE DENIED ACCESS TO BP OFFICES TO ALL BUT TOP LIBYAN STAFF. BP'S JOHN TURNBULL WAS TO MEET WITH NEW MANAGEMENT THIS MORNING.

3. HUNT OFFICE IS OPERATING NORMALLY, ALTHOUGH NO AMERICAN PERSONNEL ARE HERE. THERE HAS BEEN NO RPT NO CONTACT BETWEEN OFFICE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES. I UNDERSTAND THAT PETMIN UNDERSEC MUNTASSIR AND SHTAYWI OF NOC TOLD BP TRIPOLI REP THAT LARG CONTEMPLATES NO ACTION AGAINST HUNT.

4. BRITISH EMBASSY HAS BEEN UNABLE CONTACT BRITISH NATIONALS AT SARIR FIELD OR TOBRUK TERMINAL, BUT TOP LIBYAN STAFFER OF BP ASSURES THAT CONDITIONS ARE OK. BRITISH EMBASSY HAS MILITARY GUARD INSTEAD OF USUAL CIVILIAN POLICE.
PALMER

UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL

BENGHAZI 470
12/8/71

(1)